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[illegible]



## PATENT APPLICATION

### II. GENERAL REMARKS

Because there has been no first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application, Applicants submit, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), the references as cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. This submission is not an admission that any enclosed reference anticipates, or that any reference or any combination of references renders obvious, any claim in the above-identified application. Nevertheless, the Examiner is requested to consider carefully the complete disclosures of the enclosed references in connection with the examination of the above-identified application. It is requested that the listed reference be made of record and included in the "References Cited" portion of any patent issuing from this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

BAXTER INTERNATIONAL INC.

Date: December 9, 2003

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